

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 12323 281836Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----119544 290318Z /66

R 281720Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6172  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY MODAGISCIO  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

S E C R E T ROME 12323

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, SO, MASS, US, GW, IT  
SUBJ: NOTIFICATION OF US DECISION RE ARMS FOR SOMALIA

REF: ROME 12257

1. IN FOLLOW-UP CONVERSATION JULY 28 MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR SUB-SAHARAN POLITICAL AFFAIRS RACHELE TOLD EMBOFFS THAT GOI IS NOW CONSIDERING A "MUCH LARGER" THAN USUAL SHOPPING LIST OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT PRESENTED BY SOMALIS AT TIME OF RECENT VISIT TO MOGADISCIO BY ITALIAN MINISTER OF CULTURE. WHILE WILLING TO BE RESPONSIVE TO SOMALI REQUESTS, ITALIANS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT LIKELY ETHIOPIAN REACTION AND WELFARE OF MORE THAN 3,000 ITALIANS STILL RESIDENT IN ETHIOPIA. QUESTION OF PAYMENT FOR EQUIPMENT DOES NOT ARISE AS SOMALIS, WELL AWARE OF  
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ITALIAN POLICY OF NOT PROVIDING CREDIT FOR ARMS SALES, ARE PRESUMABLY BEING BANKROLLED BY ARAB FRIENDS.

2. RACHELE STRESSED THAT ITALIANS WANT TO CONTINUE THEIR LONGSTANDING POLICY OF NOT TAKING SIDES IN INTRA-AFRICAN DISPUTES AND EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS THAT ITALY HAS BEEN LISTED IN PRESS AMONG COUNTRYES

CONSIDERED TO BE FIRMLY IN SOMALI CAMP. GOI  
DOES NOT INTEND THAT SUCH AID AS IT MIGHT PROVIDE  
BE A SEGMENT OF A WESTERN PACKAGE.

3. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITALIAN DESIRE TO APPEAR IMPARTIAL  
IN HORN, AID TO SOMALIS HAS BEEN PARA-MILITARY IN NATURE  
AND HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO POLICE, RATHER THAN TO ARMY,  
WITH PRESUMPTION THAT EQUIPMENT ENDS UP IN ARMY HANDS.  
IN THIS CONNECTION, RACHELE SAID THAT ITALIANS HAVE  
PROVIDED SIGNIFICANT TRAINING TO SOMALI POLICE AND ARMY  
PERSONNEL AT THE ITALIAN WAR COLLEGE (SCUOLA DI GUERRA)  
AT CIVITAVECCHIA IN RECENT YEARS (REFTEL). RACHELE  
ESTIMATED THAT ABOUT 80 PERCENT OF MILITARY TRAINING FOR  
SOMALIS HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY SOVIETS AND ABOUT 15 PERCENT  
BY ITALIANS. HOLMES

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1977ROME12323  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 77 ROME 12257  
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**Subject:** NOTIFICATION OF US DECISION RE ARMS FOR SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** PDEV, MASS, SO, US, GE, IT  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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